GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3027
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2016
Observance of Library Day
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to observe a "National Library Day" and "world Book Day" to focus on the importance of books and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to promote reading habit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

ANSWER

(a) & (b) National Library of India, Kolkata observes 'National Library Day' on 1st February as its foundation day. Also various libraries in India celebrate 12th August as 'National Librarian Day' in the honour of Shri S. R. Ranganathan who is considered as the father of library science in India. 'World Book Day' is observed by National Library and other libraries in India every year on 23rd April. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared 23rd April as World Book and Copyright Day.

(c) Lending of books by Libraries itself contributes to promoting reading habit. Various steps such as organization of book fairs, and exhibitions, promoting public library movement by providing assistance to public libraries, community awareness building and outreach programmes involving readers, local community and school children, publication of reasonably priced books by National Book Trust for general readers and children, etc. have been taken to promote reading habit. Also Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation provides book assistance to various public libraries under its matching and non-matching schemes to promote reading habit.

***